

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3664

To amend the Small Business Act to improve assistance after a major disaster, to authorize emergency bridge loans, bridge loan guarantees, and recovery grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 14, 2006

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BAYH, and Mr. PRYOR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to improve assistance after a major disaster, to authorize emergency bridge loans, bridge loan guarantees, and recovery grants, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Small Business Dis-
5 aster Recovery Assistance Improvements Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) 43 percent of businesses that close following
2 a natural disaster never reopen;

3 (2) an additional 29 percent of businesses close
4 down permanently within 2 years of a natural dis-
5 aster;

6 (3) businesses affected by a natural disaster re-
7 quire, within the first 60 days following the disaster,
8 immediate access to capital and technical assistance
9 to fully recover and prosper;

10 (4) in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and
11 Rita of 2005, due to initial Administration response
12 issues, as well as extensive destruction in the region
13 and wide distribution of affected business owners
14 around the country—

15 (A) Administration loan approvals took
16 longer than 3 months, on average, for home-
17 owner disaster loans, and longer than 2
18 months, on average, for business disaster loans;
19 and

20 (B) closings on disaster loans added an ad-
21 ditional month to the process;

22 (5) the Administration requires new tools and
23 authority to be more effective in responding to major
24 disasters and to be responsive to the needs of af-
25 fected small business concerns and homeowners;

1 (6) for major disasters, State-administered
2 bridge loan programs can serve as an effective
3 means of providing immediate capital, to allow busi-
4 nesses to make repairs, make payroll, and continue
5 operations, as demonstrated by the fact that—

6 (A) following the 2004 hurricanes in Flor-
7 ida, the Florida State Bridge Loan Program
8 was a successful program in providing imme-
9 diate capital to struggling businesses, providing
10 1,679 small business concerns with
11 \$35,400,000 in bridge loans;

12 (B) following the 2005 impacts of Hurri-
13 canes Katrina and Rita on the Louisiana Gulf
14 Coast, the Louisiana Bridge Loan Program was
15 a successful program in providing immediate
16 capital to struggling businesses, providing 407
17 small business concerns with \$9,750,000 in
18 bridge loans;

19 (C) following the 2005 impact of Hurri-
20 cane Katrina on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the
21 Mississippi Bridge Loan Program was a suc-
22 cessful program in providing immediate capital
23 to struggling businesses, providing 464 small
24 business concerns with \$11,233,850 in bridge
25 loans; and

(D) following the 2005 impact of Hurricane Wilma on the Florida Gulf Coast, the Florida State Bridge Loan Program was a successful program in providing immediate capital to struggling businesses, providing 593 small business concerns with \$12,900,000 in bridge loans;

(7) in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina of 2005 and Hurricane Rita of 2005, small business development centers had difficulties entering and utilizing disaster recovery centers of the Administration, resulting in delays of technical assistance service to affected businesses; and

(8) there is a need for greater cooperation between the Federal Government and State governments on bridge loans programs to respond to major disasters.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the terms “Administration” and “Administrator” mean the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

(2) the term “approved State Bridge Loan Program” means a State Bridge Loan Program approved under section 5(b);

1 (3) the term “major disaster” has the meaning
 2 given the term in section 102 of the Robert T. Staf-
 3 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
 4 (42 U.S.C. 5122);

5 (4) the term “small business concern” has the
 6 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Small
 7 Business Act; and

8 (5) the term “State” means any State of the
 9 United States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
 10 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Is-
 11 lands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa,
 12 and any territory or possession of the United States.

13 **SEC. 4. EMERGENCY BRIDGE LOANS AND GRANTS AFTER**
 14 **MAJOR DISASTERS.**

15 Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
 16 636(b)) is amended by inserting immediately after para-
 17 graph (3) the following:

18 “(4) EMERGENCY BRIDGE LOANS AND BUSI-
 19 NESS RECOVERY GRANTS AFTER MAJOR DISAS-
 20 TERS.—

21 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

22 “(i) the term ‘disaster area’ means an
 23 area for which a major disaster was de-
 24 clared, during the period of such declara-
 25 tion; and

“(ii) the term ‘major disaster’ has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

“(B) BRIDGE LOANS.—

“(i) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘qualified small business concern’ means a small business concern—

“(I) located in a disaster area;

and

“(II) that is directly adversely affected by the major disaster for which such disaster area was declared.

“(ii) LOAN AUTHORITY.—The Administrator shall make such loans under this subparagraph (either directly (including through a district office of the Administration located in a disaster area) or in cooperation with banks or other lending institutions through agreements to participate on an immediate or deferred basis) as the Administrator determines appropriate to a qualified small business concern, to provide assistance until such small busi-

ness concern is able to obtain funding through insurance claims, other Federal assistance programs, or other sources, based on such criteria as the Administrator may set by rule, regulation, or order.

“(iii) LOAN TERMS.—

“(I) PREPAYMENT.—A loan under this subparagraph may have no prepayment penalty.

“(II) INTEREST.—For not more than 6 months after the date on which a loan is made under this subparagraph, the interest rate on such a loan may be the same as for a loan under paragraph (2).

“(III) TRANSFER.—A loan under this subparagraph may include as a term that such loan may be transferred to a local bank or other financial institution in a disaster area.

“(IV) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The borrower for a loan under this subparagraph shall certify the intent of such borrower to participate in

1 technical assistance consultation (ei-
2 ther with a local small business devel-
3 opment center or other technical as-
4 sistance group approved by the Ad-
5 ministrator) before the borrower may
6 utilize funds received under the loan.

7 “(iv) USE OF FUNDS.—A loan under
8 this subparagraph may be used for—

9 “(I) paying salaries, bills, and
10 other existing financial obligations;

11 “(II) making minor repairs;

12 “(III) purchasing inventory; or

13 “(IV) paying other costs.

14 “(v) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—Notwith-
15 standing any other provision of law, the
16 Administrator may make a loan under this
17 subparagraph of not more than \$150,000
18 to a qualified small business concern.

19 “(vi) DEFERRED PAYMENT.—

20 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Admin-
21 istrator, or a bank or other lending
22 institution, may defer payments of
23 principal and interest on a loan under
24 this subparagraph for not more than

1 180 days after the date on which the
2 loan is made.

3 “(II) CAPITALIZATION OF INTER-
4 EST.—If payments are deferred under
5 subclause (I), any interest accrued
6 during the period for which such pay-
7 ments are deferred shall be capital-
8 ized.

9 “(vii) NOTICE TO BORROWERS.—In
10 making any loan under this subpara-
11 graph—

12 “(I) the borrower shall be made
13 aware that such loans are for those
14 directly adversely affected by the
15 major disaster; and

16 “(II) if such loans are made in
17 cooperation with a bank or other lend-
18 ing institution, the lender shall docu-
19 ment for the Administrator how the
20 borrower was directly adversely af-
21 fected by the major disaster.

22 “(viii) REPORTS.—

23 “(I) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—For
24 any major disaster, not later than 6
25 months after the date on which such

1 disaster is declared, and every 6
2 months thereafter until the date that
3 is 18 months after the date on which
4 such disaster is declared, the Inspec-
5 tor General of the Administration
6 shall submit a report to the Com-
7 mittee on Small Business and Entre-
8 preneurship of the Senate and the
9 Committee on Small Business of the
10 House of Representatives regarding
11 loans described in clause (vii)(II), in-
12 cluding verification that the program
13 is being administered appropriately
14 and that such loans are being used for
15 purposes authorized by this subpara-
16 graph.

17 “(II) GAO.—Not later than 12
18 months after the date on which a final
19 report for a major disaster is sub-
20 mitted by the Inspector General under
21 subclause (I), the Comptroller General
22 of the United States shall conduct a
23 review of the loan program authorized
24 under this subparagraph and submit a
25 report to the Committee on Small

1 Business and Entrepreneurship of the
 2 Senate and the Committee on Small
 3 Business of the House of Representa-
 4 tives containing the findings of the re-
 5 view and any recommendations.

6 “(C) BUSINESS RECOVERY GRANTS.—

7 “(i) DEFINITION.—In this subpara-
 8 graph, the term ‘eligible small business
 9 concern’ means a small business concern—

10 “(I) directly adversely affected by
 11 a major disaster;

12 “(II) that has been declined for
 13 other assistance under this subsection
 14 and from private lending institutions
 15 and State-provided bridge loans;

16 “(III) that certifies that it in-
 17 tends—

18 “(aa) to reopen in the dis-
 19 aster area for which the major
 20 disaster described in subclause
 21 (I) was declared; and

22 “(bb) to participate in tech-
 23 nical assistance consultation (ei-
 24 ther with a local small business
 25 development center or other tech-

1 nical assistance group approved
2 by the Administrator).

3 “(ii) AUTHORIZATION.—The Adminis-
4 trator shall make such grants under this
5 subparagraph as the Administrator deter-
6 mines appropriate to an eligible small busi-
7 ness concern, to assist such small business
8 concern in recovery from a major disaster.

9 “(iii) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Ad-
10 administrator may make a grant in an
11 amount not more than \$25,000 under this
12 subparagraph.

13 “(iv) DOCUMENTATION OF TECHNICAL
14 ASSISTANCE.—An eligible small business
15 concern receiving a grant under this sub-
16 paragraph shall submit to the Adminis-
17 trator documentation indicating that such
18 small business concern received technical
19 assistance support through a small busi-
20 ness development center or other technical
21 assistance provider determined appropriate
22 by the Administrator.

23 “(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
24 TIONS.—There are authorized to be appro-

1 priated to the Administration such sums as are
2 necessary to carry out this paragraph.”.

3 **SEC. 5. STATE BRIDGE LOAN GUARANTEE.**

4 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—After issuing guidelines under
5 subsection (c), the Administrator may guarantee loans
6 made under an approved State Bridge Loan Program.

7 (b) APPROVAL.—

8 (1) APPLICATION.—A State desiring approval
9 of a State Bridge Loan Program shall submit an ap-
10 plication to the Administrator at such time, in such
11 manner, and accompanied by such information as
12 the Administrator may require.

13 (2) CRITERIA.—The Administrator may ap-
14 prove an application submitted under paragraph (1)
15 based on such criteria as the Administrator may es-
16 tablish under this section.

17 (c) GUIDELINES.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
19 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
20 shall issue to the appropriate economic development
21 officials in each State, the Committee on Small
22 Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, and
23 the Committee on Small Business of the House of
24 Representatives, guidelines regarding approved State
25 Bridge Loan Programs.

1 (2) CONTENTS.—The guidelines issued under
2 paragraph (1) shall—

3 (A) identify appropriate uses of funds
4 under an approved State Bridge loan Program;

5 (B) set terms and conditions for loans
6 under an approved State Bridge loan Program;

7 (C) address whether—

8 (i) an approved State Bridge Loan
9 Program may charge administrative fees;
10 and

11 (ii) loans under an approved State
12 Bridge Loan Program shall be disbursed
13 through local banks and other financial in-
14 stitutions; and

15 (D) establish the percentage of a loan the
16 Administrator will guarantee under an approved
17 State Bridge Loan Program.

18 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO MAKE EXPEDITED 7(A) DISASTER**
19 **LOANS TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.**

20 Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
21 636(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

22 “(32) EXPEDITED LOANS.—

23 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

24 “(i) the term ‘disaster area’ means an
25 area for which a major disaster was de-

1 clared, during the period of such declara-
2 tion;

3 “(ii) the term ‘major disaster’ has the
4 meaning given the term in section 102 of
5 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
6 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
7 5122); and

8 “(iii) the term ‘essential small busi-
9 ness concern in good standing’ means a
10 small business concern that the Adminis-
11 trator, in consultation with appropriate of-
12 ficials in district offices of the Administra-
13 tion determines has the ability to repay the
14 subject loan, and—

15 “(I) is in good standing and has
16 a history of compliance with the terms
17 of a program of the Administration
18 (including having repaid, or being in
19 the process of repaying, a loan under
20 a program of the Administration, as
21 required under the terms of such
22 loan); or

23 “(II) has a bona fide reason for
24 receiving an expedited loan under this
25 paragraph (including being a major

1 source of employment in a disaster
 2 area or essential to economic recovery
 3 of the area, such as by supplying
 4 building materials, housing, or debris
 5 removal services).

6 “(B) LOAN AUTHORIZATION.—Notwith-
 7 standing any other provision of law, the Admin-
 8 istrator may make a loan under this subsection
 9 to an essential small business concern in good
 10 standing under expedited procedures, including
 11 expedited loss verification, loan processing, and
 12 approval.

13 “(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
 14 TIONS.—There are authorized to be appro-
 15 priated to the Administrator, such sums as are
 16 necessary to carry out this paragraph.”.

17 **SEC. 7. MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNTS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(a)(3)(A) of the Small
 19 Business Act is amended by striking “\$1,500,000 (or if
 20 the gross loan amount would exceed \$2,000,000” and in-
 21 serting “\$2,250,000 (or if the gross loan amount would
 22 exceed \$3,000,000”.

23 (b) DISASTER LOANS.—Section 7(c)(6) of the Small
 24 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(c)(6)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “\$500,000” each place such
2 term appears and inserting “\$2,250,000”;

3 (2) by striking “\$100,000” and inserting
4 “\$250,000”; and

5 (3) by striking “\$20,000” and inserting
6 “\$50,000”.

7 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Chapter I of the
8 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Relief From
9 the Major, Widespread Flooding in the Midwest Act of
10 1993 (Public Law 103-75; 107 Stat. 740) is amended by
11 striking “: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any
12 other provision of law, the \$500,000 limitation on the
13 amounts outstanding and committed to a borrower pro-
14 vided in paragraph 7(c)(6) of the Small Business Act shall
15 be increased to \$1,500,000 for disasters commencing on
16 or after April 1, 1993”.

17 **SEC. 8. INCREASING COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS.**

18 Section 7(c)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
19 636(c)(6)) is amended by striking “\$10,000” and insert-
20 ing “\$20,000”.

21 **SEC. 9. CATASTROPHIC REGIONAL OR NATIONAL DISAS-**
22 **TERS.**

23 Section 7(b)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
24 636(b)(2)) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B),
 2 (C), and (D) as clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (v), respec-
 3 tively;

4 (2) by striking “(2) to make such loans” and
 5 inserting “(2)(A) to make such loans”;

6 (3) in subparagraph (A), as so designated by
 7 this section—

8 (A) by striking “or” at the end of each of
 9 clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), as so redesignated by
 10 paragraph (1) of this section;

11 (B) by inserting after clause (iii), as so re-
 12 designated by paragraph (1) of this section, the
 13 following:

14 “(iv) a catastrophic regional or national
 15 disaster, as declared by the Secretary of Home-
 16 land Security, that is an actual or potential
 17 high-impact event that requires a coordinated
 18 and effective response by an appropriate com-
 19 bination of Federal, State, local, tribal, non-
 20 governmental, or private-sector entities in order
 21 to save lives and minimize damage and provide
 22 the basis for long-term community recovery and
 23 mitigation activities; or”; and

24 (C) in clause (v), as so redesignated by
 25 paragraph (1) of this section, by striking “sub-

1 paragraph (A), (B), or (C)” and inserting
 2 “clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv)”;

3 (4) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(B) Notwithstanding subsection (c)(6), in the
 5 case of a catastrophic regional or national disaster
 6 declared under subparagraph (A)(iv) of this para-
 7 graph, the Administrator may increase the max-
 8 imum amount that may be outstanding and com-
 9 mitted to borrower under this paragraph to
 10 \$10,000,000.”.

11 **SEC. 10. FULL-TIME DISASTER PLANNING STAFF.**

12 (a) INCREASE IN SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
 13 FULL-TIME DISASTER PLANNING STAFF.—The Adminis-
 14 trator shall hire a full-time disaster planning specialist in
 15 the Office of Disaster Assistance of the Administration.

16 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The disaster planning spe-
 17 cialist hired under subsection (a) shall be responsible for—

18 (1) creating and maintaining the comprehensive
 19 disaster response plan of the Administration;

20 (2) ensuring in-service and pre-service training
 21 procedures for the disaster response staff of the Ad-
 22 ministration;

23 (3) coordinating Administration training exer-
 24 cises, including mock disaster responses, with other
 25 Federal agencies; and

1 (4) other responsibilities, as determined by the
2 Administrator.

3 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
5 appropriated to the Administration such sums as are
6 necessary to carry out this section.

7 (2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts made
8 available under this section shall remain available
9 until expended.

10 **SEC. 11. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY FOR DISTRICT OFFICES**
11 **OF THE ADMINISTRATION.**

12 Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
13 636(b)) is amended by inserting immediately after para-
14 graph (4), as added by this Act, the following:

15 “(5) USE OF DISTRICT OFFICES.—In the event
16 of a major disaster (as that term is defined in sec-
17 tion 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
18 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)),
19 the Administrator may authorize a district office of
20 the Administration to process loans under paragraph
21 (1) or (2).”.

22 **SEC. 12. ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS TO NON-**
23 **PROFITS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(b)(2)(A) of the Small
25 Business Act, as redesignated by this Act, is amended—

1 (1) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

2 (A) by inserting after “small business con-
3 cern” the following: “, private nonprofit organi-
4 zation,”; and

5 (B) by inserting after “the concern” the
6 following: “, organization,”; and

7 (2) in clause (v), by inserting after “small busi-
8 ness concerns” the following: “, private nonprofit or-
9 ganizations,”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7(c) of the
11 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(c)) is amended in
12 paragraph (5)(C), by inserting “, organization,” after
13 “business”.

14 **SEC. 13. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER PORT-**
15 **ABILITY GRANTS.**

16 Section 21(a)(4) of the Small Business Act (15
17 U.S.C. 648(a)(4), as amended by this Act, is amended by
18 adding at the end the following:

19 “(E) WAIVER OF MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—In the
20 event of a major disaster (as that term is defined in
21 section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
22 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)),
23 the Administrator may waive the maximum amount
24 of \$100,000 for grants under subparagraph
25 (C)(viii), and such grants shall be made available for

1 small business development centers assisting small
2 business concerns adversely affected by such major
3 disaster.”.

4 **SEC. 14. DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM MONTHLY ACCOUNT-**
5 **ING REPORT.**

6 (a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “applica-
7 ble period” means the period beginning on the date on
8 which the President declares a major disaster and ending
9 on the date that is 30 days after the later of the closing
10 date for applications for physical disaster loans for such
11 disaster and the closing date for applications for economic
12 injury disaster loans for such disaster.

13 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than the 5th
14 business day of each month during the applicable period
15 for a major disaster, the Administrator shall provide to
16 the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
17 and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and
18 to the Committee on Small Business and the Committee
19 on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a re-
20 port on the operation of the disaster loan program author-
21 ized under section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
22 636) for such disaster during the preceding month.

23 (c) CONTENT OF REPORTS.—Each report under sub-
24 section (b) shall include—

1 (1) the daily average lending volume, in number
2 of loans and dollars, and the percent by which each
3 category has increased or decreased since the pre-
4 vious report under subsection (b);

5 (2) the weekly average lending volume, in num-
6 ber of loans and dollars, and the percent by which
7 each category has increased or decreased since the
8 previous report under subsection (b);

9 (3) the amount of funding spent over the month
10 for loans, both in appropriations and program level,
11 and the percent by which each category has in-
12 creased or decreased since the previous report under
13 subsection (b);

14 (4) the amount of funding available for loans,
15 both in appropriations and program level, and the
16 percent by which each category has increased or de-
17 creased, noting the source of any additional funding;

18 (5) an estimate of how long the available fund-
19 ing for such loans will last, based on the spending
20 rate;

21 (6) the amount of funding spent over the month
22 for staff, along with the number of staff, and the
23 percent by which each category has increased or de-
24 creased since the previous report under subsection
25 (b);

1 (7) the amount of funding spent over the month
 2 for administrative costs, and the percent by which
 3 such spending has increased or decreased since the
 4 previous report under subsection (b);

5 (8) the amount of funding available for salaries
 6 and expenses combined, and the percent by which
 7 such funding has increased or decreased, noting the
 8 source of any additional funding; and

9 (9) an estimate of how long the available fund-
 10 ing for salaries and expenses will last, based on the
 11 spending rate.

12 **SEC. 15. DISASTER LOANS AFTER MAJOR DISASTERS.**

13 Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
 14 636(b)) is amended by inserting immediately after para-
 15 graph (5), as added by this Act, the following:

16 “(6) **AUTHORITY FOR LENDERS TO PROCESS**
 17 **DISASTER LOANS.**—The Administrator may enter
 18 into an agreement with a qualified lender, as deter-
 19 mined by the Administrator, to process loans under
 20 this section, under which the Administrator shall
 21 pay the lender a fee for each loan processed.

22 “(7) **AUTHORITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR TO**
 23 **CONTRACT WITH LENDERS FOR LOAN LOSS**
 24 **VERIFICATION SERVICES.**—The Administrator may
 25 enter into an agreement with a qualified lender or

1 loss verification professional, as determined by the
 2 Administrator, to verify losses for loans under this
 3 section, under which the Administrator shall pay the
 4 lender or verification professional a fee for each loan
 5 for which such lender or verification professional
 6 verifies losses.”.

7 **SEC. 16. WAIVER OF GEOGRAPHIC RESTRICTIONS ON SBDC**
 8 **COUNSELORS.**

9 Section 21(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
 10 648(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

11 “(4) WAIVER OF GEOGRAPHIC RESTRICTIONS ON
 12 SBDC COUNSELORS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall
 14 authorize any small business development center, re-
 15 gardless of location, to provide advice, information,
 16 and assistance, as described in subsection (c), to a
 17 small business concern located in an area in which
 18 the President declared a major disaster (as defined
 19 in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
 20 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
 21 5122)), during the period of such declaration.

22 “(B) CONTINUITY OF SERVICES.—A small busi-
 23 ness development center that provides counselors to
 24 an area described in subparagraph (A) shall, to the

1 maximum extent practicable, ensure continuity of
2 services in the State it currently serves.

3 “(C) ACCESS TO DISASTER RECOVERY FACILI-
4 TIES.—For purposes of providing recovery assistance
5 under this paragraph, the Administrator shall per-
6 mit small business development center personnel to
7 use any site or facility designated by the Administra-
8 tion for use for such purpose.”.

○